

The Chieftain

WEEKLY EDITION

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VINITA, I. T., Jan. 22, 1903.

The Fairland Newsboy is the latest journalistic venture, the first number of which was printed last week.

Muskogee proposes to replace the Indian business, which is now moving away, with a canning factory.

The Ozark and Cherokee Central railroad, the great trunk line from Fayetteville, Arkansas, is about completed to Muskogee.

The Indian Territory now has seventy-four banks with \$2,996,500 capital. Pretty fair showing for a comparatively new country.

Chief Buffington will call the Cherokee council together and try to enact another election law providing for the next Chief's election.

President Roosevelt has again declared his unalterable belief that the negro shall be the equal of the white man, the Almighty to the contrary notwithstanding.

There is absolutely nothing too good or too big for Vinita to tackle. It is the part of wisdom and business to let no good thing pass without an honest effort to get it.

There are few mourners on account of the report that there are to be no more Cherokee elections. It was a Godsend to the Cherokees to cease the farce of self-government.

Mr. Moon is the only member of Congress in favor of a territorial form of government for the Indian Territory, and the sentiment in the territory is practically a unit in favor of statehood.

The man who attempts to file on his neighbor's land without his consent is laying up trouble and delay for himself. Go and settle your boundaries before you attempt to file and you will save time and expense.

The great railroad center, Muskogee, deserves credit for at least trying to "do things," whether she succeeds or not. She grows more and more frantic as the Indian business is being moved away from her.

As the filing on Cherokee allotments proceeds it is more and more evident that many are doomed to disappointment in the matter of making of lines. The subdivisions of less than forty-acre tracts carries with it the necessity of concessions on the part of many who happen to have valuable improvements on such subdivisions.

Like a great many other good things, the artesian wells of Vinita are more famous away from home than elsewhere. A letter from a gentleman in a distant state asking for information of the artesian water here reveals the fact that it is regarded with interest by many people who never saw the Indian territory.

There is no longer any good reason why the section lines should not be opened for public highways throughout the Cherokee country, wherever practicable. As the citizens file upon their allotments they know precisely where the roads should be. This important matter should receive every attention and public roads be established without delay.

The shooting down of Editor Gonzalez by Lieutenant Governor Tillman at Columbia, South Carolina, was the outbreak of a violent wild and over-bearing man, who comes of a family and name of the same stripe. Such ungovernable freaks should not run loose. The color of a descendant nobility, who never did regard the rights of others and who are really the basest of cowards at heart.

Vinita needs the help of her commercial club; can she have it?

According to a recent ruling of the Dawes Commission with reference to filing on allotments where two or more persons claim the same tract of land, where the tract in controversy is more than ten acres the party first offering to file must give ten days notice to each of the persons whose rights are involved in order that they may appear before the commission and set forth their claim. The same not appearing within nine months the filing of the party first appearing will stand.

It has been suggested that now is a good time for Vinita people to show their appreciation of the Dawes Commission and the force of gentlemanly clerks and assistants, who are sojourning in our city by giving a public reception in their honor. Many of Vinita's leading citizens have not had a chance to meet them or form acquaintance. They are exceedingly busy people, and would no doubt greatly appreciate such a function given in their behalf.

Beginning with this issue, The Chieftain will print an exposition of the International Sunday school lesson. This will be undenominational, and by one of the best Bible scholars in the United States. Many of our readers, both in town and country, are interested in Sunday school work, and especially in the series of lessons from the life of St. Paul that have been selected by the lesson committee for the first six months of this year. We are sure these lesson helps will prove of interest to both teachers and scholars.

The report that there are to be no more tribal elections in the Cherokee nation does not disturb the rank and file of Cherokee citizens; in fact they are generally glad and earnestly hope that it may prove to be true. No good can come from such elections. The Cherokees have no political rights they care about in so far as tribal affairs are concerned. Their property interests now need protection more than any other, and are far safer in the hands of the United States government than elsewhere. It were indeed fortunate if the president has vetoed the Cherokee election bill.

The men who are in control of the city administration need no encomium, nor any defense at the hands of this paper nor from any individual. They are all substantial citizens and the town's interests are perfectly safe in their hands. Greater progress has been made and is being made under the present government than ever before in the history of the town. They were selected on account of their fitness to administer this municipality, and not on account of political affiliation. The plain, quiet citizen takes no stock in the cry of "wolf" from these diminutive alarmists.

That Vinita should remain without public water works while millions of gallons of water is flowing from the artesian wells is one of the peculiar conditions that confront the investor and capitalist who comes here looking for a location. Our fire insurance rates are higher in proportion, perhaps, than in any other town in the country, while we have easy access to the means to reduce the same to a minimum. The larger property owners and taxpayers have, many of them, water works of their own, and therefore do not care to be taxed to build a public system. This peculiar and paradoxical condition should not remain, but the town should step to the front and secure every privilege, and embrace every opportunity possible.

Much complaint is heard among Delaware citizens of the Cherokee nation with reference to the segregation of lands in their possession by Dick Adams and the Washington attorneys. Without their consent their homes have been designated as not subject to allotment pending the final decision of the supreme court in the Delaware

suit for 157,600 acres of Cherokee land. Of course no one knows definitely what the finding of the court will be but it is sure that should the Delawares win the case that the attorneys and not the people will get the bulk of the land involved. In the meantime they are not allowed to file upon the lands in their possession and will probably have to wait until all other Cherokee citizens have filed and at last have to accept the same amount of land allotted to other citizens. The Delawares have been imposed upon by these land grabbing attorneys. Many of their names are signed to the contracts without their knowledge.

The reports of the number of filings at the land office as given in this paper daily are not always as intelligible as we would like for them to be. The officials at the office are as accommodating as the most exacting newspaper people could ask but they are all exceedingly busy. Our endeavor is, and shall be to keep up with the numbers as they are called and to report them each afternoon with such other information as can be gathered. The total number called will represent the number of the last ticket admitted and the number of the tickets issued will show the highest number of cards given out up to going to press each day. From time to time we shall give the total number of individual allotments filed.

Persons in possession of lands in the Cherokee nation upon which they desire to file and which at sometime in the past have been purchased from other citizens should go to the land office prepared with the bill of sale as the commission requires such showing.

The report of the superintendent of schools for the Indian Territory shows almost as large a percent of children of school age in attendance at the schools as that in some of the states.

Reed Smoot, a Mormon apostle, was elected United States Senator from Utah yesterday.

The Muskogee Times quotes Col. T. B. Needles, of the Dawes commission, as saying there will not be another Cherokee treaty.

The Chieftain again calls the attention of Cherokee citizens to the folly of attempting to file upon lands the property of another citizen. The Commission will not permit this, and the party who, by false representations, makes a filing of this kind only invites trouble for himself and trouble for others. An undisputed title is the only safe land to file upon. Persons in dispute over boundaries would do well to settle their differences before either attempts to file.

The proposition of Chief Buffington to call the Cherokee council together in extraordinary session to pass an election law that will enable the regular election next summer for chief and council to be held does not please many Cherokee citizens. The necessity for an expensive election when there is nothing that can be accomplished does not commend itself. The property rights of Cherokee citizens will not be enhanced by tribal elections nor sessions of the national council.

The charge of murder that now can be successfully lodged against South Carolina's lieutenant governor is the legitimate outcome of carrying concealed weapons by officials and private citizens throughout the country, in every state and territory in the Union. The party who goes about with a loaded revolver in his pocket is ready to commit murder, and sooner or later may do so. The citizen who is living a plain, open, frank life don't need a gun to defend himself. Ordinarily, the man with a pistol in his inside pocket is a coward and a sneak, lacking every element of true courage and manhood.

The Dawes Commission is much in need of a law by which fractions of land adjacent to the towns throughout the Cherokee Nation could be filed on without loss to some one. If two men happen to have built upon the same ten-acre tract one must either buy the other out or else enter a contest. In the event of a contest one party or the other must necessarily lose out. This is working a peculiar hardship on many citizens, and should be the subject of a supplemental treaty. This is one particular in which the rights of all parties cannot be adequately protected. This matter certainly deserves the attention of the commission, and could very properly be the subject of additional legislation.

The people in complaining about the present condition of the streets should remember that Vinita is no exception to the general rule of towns in the territory and elsewhere. Nothing but brick or cement could withstand such a winter as we have had. The town council made a contract for the construction of fourteen street crossings early in November, but the roads have been in such a condition that no one could haul the stone to town. In October an order was placed in Galena and other towns in the mining district for hand jig and small stone for the main streets, and the railroad agents have either been unable to get the cars or could not get them loaded from the mines when secured.

Rev. Carlisle P. B. Martin, L. Waverly, Texas, writes: "Of a morning, I often find a troublesome collection of phlegm, which produces a cough, and is very hard to dislodge, but a small quantity of Ballard's Horehound Syrup will at once dislodge it, and the trouble is over. I know of no medicine that is equal to it, and it is so pleasant to take. I can most cordially recommend it to all persons needing a medicine for throat or lung troubles." Price 25c, 50c, \$1 bottle at People's drug store.

Visiting cards printed with our new type faces "Eugene's, Roman" are the latest.

Broad Statesmanship. In discussing editorially the matter of statehood for the territories, the Review of Reviews in the current number says:

"We have little need to take up again at length the subject of the admission of Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico, except to report briefly the situation at Washington. The committee of which Senator Beveridge is chairman, made an admirable report, based on a thorough investigation of facts and upon broad principles of statesmanship and constitutional history. The report recommended the restoration of old lines bringing together Oklahoma and Indian Territory into one commonwealth, which would be promptly admitted to the Union. This was wholly wise and right from every standpoint, and to our ample knowledge it is in accordance with the wishes and judgment of the people of Oklahoma, who represent the best public opinion. The bill for the admission of Oklahoma was presented and advocated by Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, in a cogent speech. The majority of the committee reported its most unqualified condemnation of the proposal to admit Arizona and New Mexico. The summarized report, together with the volume of printed evidence, will suffice to convince any disinterested person of the validity of the objections to the present admission of New Mexico and Arizona."

The best thought and the best writers of the United States are for the prompt admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory into the Union as one state. Even many supporters of the omnibus bill prefer to represent that single statehood is their idea of the ultimate destiny of the territories; but in their pursuit of personal and political advantages, they are trying to have that state created and moulded by half its population, leaving the other half to come in like the Philistines, by "benevolent assimilation." Their plan of un-Americanism will never go thro'. The country may submit to the acquisition of ignorant islanders without consent of the governed, but its intelligence will not permit such a travesty against constitutional liberty right in the heart of the republic.—Oklahoman.

The Badgett-Sanders Store

As in the year just closed will be again the leading store of Vinita for the choicest new styles in all kinds of Merchandise for Spring and Summer wear. It is our purpose this season to excell anything we have ever done in the way of big stocks and fine goods. We are alive to the fact that there is no merchandise too good for our customers. And with this in view we are making extra efforts to assemble a choice stock of



Dry Goods, Dress Goods, Millinery, Clothing, Hats, Men's Furnishings and all kinds of Shoes

We confidently assert that our lines of these goods will be far superior to anything you have ever seen in Vinita. The new goods in some departments are already coming in. We have had a great many compliments on all our new goods, especially so on Muslin Underwear and White Goods. We are sure they were sincere because we have had a heavy advance sale on these lines. It will be interesting to you and a pleasure to us if you will call and let us show you the new goods for Spring. These goods will be found to be of excellent value, and for Shirt Waists we can please you in almost anything you call for. In Muslin Underwear you cannot find a better stock to select from. They are trimmed in all latest styles and patterns of laces and embroidery and are very dainty. It costs no more to buy good goods than cheap goods. Merchandise bought here is of a satisfactory quality.



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